IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases comprising:

a columnar body ~~made of~~ comprising porous ceramic ~~comprising~~ and having a plurality of through holes ~~placed~~ extending in parallel with one another in a length direction of said columnar body, said columnar body having a [[with]] wall portion interposed ~~therebetween; and a part or all of said wall portion that separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates,~~ between said through holes and configured to filter particulates in exhaust gases,

wherein said plurality of through holes has a length 1 [[of]] which is a longest side in a cross section perpendicular to said length direction of said ~~through hole and~~ columnar body, said columnar body has a length L in [[the]] said length direction of said columnar body, said length L and said length 1 satisfy: $60 \leq L/1 \leq 500$, and said wall portion has a surface roughness Ra ~~(according to~~ as defined by JIS B 0601~~) of the inner wall of said through hole~~ which satisfies: Ra [[<]] ≤ 100 μm.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases comprising:

a columnar body ~~made of~~ comprising porous ceramic ~~comprising~~ and having a plurality of through holes ~~placed~~ extending in parallel with one another in a length direction of said columnar body, said columnar body having a [[with]] wall portion interposed ~~therebetween; and a part or all of said wall portion that separates said through holes functions as a filter for collecting particulates,~~ between said through holes and configured to filter particulates in exhaust gases,

wherein said plurality of through holes has an area S [[of]] which is a cross section area perpendicular to [[a]] said length direction of said ~~through hole and the~~ columnar body, said columnar body has a length L in [[the]] said length direction of said columnar body, and said area S and said length L satisfy: 20 $\leq$ L/S $\leq$ 400, and said wall portion has a surface roughness Ra ~~(according to~~ as defined by JIS B 0601~~) of the inner wall of the through hole~~ which satisfies: Ra [[<]] $\leq$100 μm.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7, wherein [[the]] said surface roughness Ra ~~(according to JIS B 0601) of the inner wall of the through hole~~ satisfies: 1.0 μm [[<]] $\leq$Ra [[<]] $\leq$100 μm.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8, wherein [[the]] said surface roughness Ra ~~(according to JIS B 0601) of the inner wall of the through hole~~ satisfies: 1.0 μm [[<]] $\leq$Ra [[<]] $\leq$100 μm.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7, wherein [[the]] said columnar body comprises a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members combined through an adhesive layer, and said plurality of through holes and said wall portion are formed in each of said rectangular columnar porous ceramic members ~~comprising the through holes placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with the wall partition interposed therebetween~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8, wherein [[the]] said columnar body comprises a plurality of rectangular columnar porous ceramic members combined through an adhesive layer, and said plurality of through holes and said wall portion are formed in each of said rectangular columnar porous ceramic members ~~member comprising the through holes placed in parallel with one another in the length direction with the wall partition interposed therebetween~~.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7, <u>further comprising</u> ~~wherein~~ a catalyst ~~is supported thereon~~ <u>provided in said columnar body</u>.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8, <u>further comprising</u> ~~wherein~~ a catalyst ~~is supported thereon~~ <u>provided in said columnar body</u>.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An exhaust gas purifying device comprising:

a casing <u>configured to be</u> connected to an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine[[;]] <u>and holding</u> the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 7 <u>therein</u>; and

<u>a</u> heating ~~means, which are equipped~~ <u>device provided</u> inside said casing,

wherein ~~upon carrying out a regenerating process for said honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, gases heated by the heating means are flown into the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases under conditions that:~~ <u>said heating device is configured to heat and introduce exhaust gases at</u> a flow-in rate [[is]] <u>of</u> 0.3 m/sec or more[[:]] and an oxygen concentration [[is]] <u>of</u> 6% or more.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An exhaust gas purifying device comprising:

a casing <u>configured to be</u> connected to an exhaust gas passage of an internal combustion engine[[;]] and <u>holding</u> the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 8 <u>therein</u>; and

<u>a</u> heating ~~means, which are equipped~~ <u>device provided</u> inside said casing,

wherein ~~upon carrying out a regenerating process for said honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, gases heated by the heating means are flown into the honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases under conditions that:~~ <u>said heating device is configured to heat and</u>

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introduce exhaust gases at a flow-in rate [[is]] of 0.3 m/sec or more[[:]] and an oxygen

concentration [[is]] of 6% or more.

Claim 17 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim

7, wherein said columnar body comprises a single sintered body.

Claim 18 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim

8, wherein said columnar body comprises a single sintered body.